(229)

Briefing Paper for
Assistant Secretary's
Handbook

(39)

CONFIDENTIAL

3/31/70

The USS Liberty Claims Against Israel

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

The United States has received $6,889,957 from the Government of Israel in settlement of claims arising out of the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty on June 8, 1967. The Government of Israel paid the following claims in full:

a. Claims on behalf of the families of the 34 men killed in the attack - $3,323,500 (paid May 27, 1968);

b. Claims on behalf of the 164 men injured in the attack - $3,452,275 (paid April 28, 1969);

c. A claim for the costs incurred by the U.S. Government in providing medical treatment to the injured men - $92,437 (paid April 28, 1969);

d. A claim for costs incurred by the U.S. Government in reimbursing crew members for damaged personal property - $21,745 (paid April 28, 1969).

The only unsettled claim is the claim for damage to the ship, which is now under discussion.

Background

The USS Liberty was attacked by Israeli naval and air units on June 8, 1967 while steaming in international waters off El Arish. Thirty-four men were killed and 164 injured in the attack. The ship was extensively damaged.

Promptly following the attack the Government of Israel informed the United States Government that it assumed responsibility for the attack and was prepared to make amends for the tragic loss of life and material damage.

The USS Liberty has in the meantime been decommissioned and will be scrapped. END UNCLASSIFIED

GROUP 3
Downgraded at 12-year intervals;
not automatically declassified.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 10/26/82
EXT. DATE
REASON(S)
RDS or XDS
TS AUTH.
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

The ship damage claim submitted by the USG amounts to $7,644,146. The GOI has been slow in responding to our requests to discuss this remaining claim. END CONFIDENTIAL

Drafted by:
NEA/IAI:MCLissfelt:slb
3/26/70

Cleared by:
NEA/IAI:TAWahl
L/C:ELKerley
EK (ML)

DECLASSIFIED